

Message Text

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ACTION DLOS-04

INFO OCT-01 EA-06 ISO-00 OFA-01 IO-10 OIC-02 ACDA-05

AGR-05 AID-05 CEA-01 CEQ-01 CG-00 CIAE-00 CIEP-01

COME-00 DODE-00 DOTE-00 EB-07 EPA-01 ERDA-05 FEAE-00

FMC-01 H-02 INR-07 INT-05 JUSE-00 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05

NSF-01 OES-03 OMB-01 PA-01 PM-03 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

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FM AMEMBASSY RANGOON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9780

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGSC: PLOS, BM

SUBJECT: LOS CONFERENCE - BURMESE VIEWS ON CONFERENCE AND POSSIBLE
UNILATERAL ACTION

REF: GENEVA 3400 (STATE 110126)

1. EMBOFF CALLED JUNE 20 ON DAW THAN HAN, RESEARCH DIVISION,
FOREIGN MINISTRY, BURMESE DELEGATE TO 1975 LOS CONFERENCE AND
PRINCIPAL GUB SPECIALIST ON THIS SUBJECT, TO DISCUSS CONFERENCE
AND TO OUTLINE U.S. ASSESSMENT ALONG LINES REFTEL. (UNCLASSIFIED
REPORT OF USDEL HAD PREVIOUSLY BEEN SENT HER.)

2. DAW THAN HAN TOOK MILDLY OPTIMISTIC LINE CONCERNING PROSPECTS
FOR REACHING AGREEMENT IN 1976. SHE BASED THIS ON A PREDICTION,
RESULTING FROM BURMESE CONTACTS WITH LANDLOCKED AND GEOGRAPHICALLY
DISADVANTAGED COUNTRIES (E.G., SINGAPORE), THAT THIS GROUP WOULD
MODERATE ITS DEMANDS AT NEXT SESSION OF CONFERENCE; AND ON THE
DEGREE OF PROGRESS MADE SO FAR ON ISSUES OF ECONOMIC ZONE,
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STRAITS, AND ARCHIPELAGOES.

3. SHEIYNQUIRED ABOUT LIKELIHOOD OF UNILATERAL ACTION BY U.S. TO CLAIM 200-MILE ECONOMIC ZONE, AND SAID HE AND OTHER FOREIGN MINISTRY OFFICIALS HAVE SO FAR BEEN SUCCESSFUL IN PREVENTING UNILATERAL ACTION BY GUB. HOWEVER, SHE SAID, UNILATERAL CLAIM TO 200-MILE ZONE BY GUB AND OTHER COUNTRIES WOULD UNDOUBTEDLY FOLLOW SUCH ACTION BY USG, AND SHE URGED CONTINUED RESTRAINT BY USG PENDING OUTCOME OF 1976 SESSION. EMBOFF SAID UNILATERAL ACTION ENJOYED STRONG POLITICAL SUPPORT IN U.S., AND OUTCOME OF CONGRESSIONAL CONSIDERATION NOT POSSIBLE TO FORECAST. PROMPT PROGRESS, AND THE APPEARANCE OF PROGRESS, BY 1976 SESSION MIGHT BECOME IMPORTANT FACTORS IN AVERTING UNILATERAL USG ACTION. HOWEVER, UNILATERAL ACTION WOULD BE STRONGLY OPPOSED AND THERE WOULD BE GOOD CHANCE OF AVERTING IT. DAW THAN HAN REITERATED THAT UNILATERAL USG ACTION WOULD LEAD TO SIMILAR ACTION BY GUB AND MANY OTHER GOVERNMENTS, WITH HARMFUL EFFECTS ON PROSPECTS FOR 1976 SESSION.

4. IN LOS NEGOTIATIONS, TOPIC OF MAJOR INTEREST FOR GUB CONTINUES TO BE ACCESS TO BAY OF BENGAL/ANDAMAN SEA, AND HENCE THE LEGAL REGIME OF "NON-STATE" ARCHIPELAGOES SUCH AS ANDAMAN ISLANDS. DAW THAN HAN SAID GUB HAD GENERALLY SUPPORTED DRAFT ON ARCHIPELAGOES INTRODUCED INTO WORKING GROUP OF COMMITTEE II ON TERRITORIAL SEA, AND HAD OPPOSED CERTAIN INDIAN AMENDMENTS DESIGNED TO ENLARGE TERRITORIAL WATERS OF "NON-STATE" ARCHIPELAGOES. SHE SAID PRIVATE DISCUSSIONS OVER DEFINITION OF TERRITORIAL WATERS AND 200-MILE ZONE IN ANDAMAN SEA HAD TAKEN QUOE AT GENEVA WITH INDIAN AND WITH THAI DELEGATIONS, AND THAT FURTHER NEGOTIATIONS OVER ANDAMANINEA WOULD BE CONJMCTED BEFORE 1976 SESSION OF LOS CONFERENCE.

5. ACTION REQUESTED: IN VIEW OF IMPORTANCE OF ISSUE TO BURMESE, WE WOULD APPRECIATE ADDITIONAL BACKGROUND DATA ON QUESTION OF ARCHIPELAGOES AND PARTICULARLY ON USG POSITION WITH RESPECT TO "NON-STATE" ARCHIPELAGOES SUCH AS ANDAMANS (AND HAWAII).
OSBORN

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Message Attributes

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